

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (currently amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing comprising at least a backing film layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the material comprising the backing film layer includes at least a thermoplastic elastomer having about 50% to about 100% ethylene based copolymer and co-monomer level of about 8% to about 28%. ~~and~~ wherein said backing film layer and adhesive layer are calendered together simultaneously to provide said calendered hydrocolloid dressing by a single manufacturing step.

Claim 2. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is an ethylene based copolymer.

Claim 3. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 1, wherein the ethylene based copolymer is one or a combination of any of an ethylene acrylic acrylate, ethylene butyl acrylate, ethylene ethyl acrylate or ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer.

B) Claim 4. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 1, wherein the backing film layer is comprised of about 100% by weight copolymer, wherein the copolymer is about 21% by weight comonomer.

Claim 5. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 1, wherein the material comprising the backing film layer further includes low density polyethylene homopolymer.

Claim 6. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 1, wherein the material comprising the backing film layer further includes additives.

Claim 7. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 6, wherein the additives are selected from the group of antioxidants, stabilizers and processing aids.

Claim 8. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 1, wherein the backing film is comprised of about 65% to about 100% by weight ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer, from about 0 to about 35% by weight low density polyethylene, about 0.05 to about 2% by weight of any one of or combinations of any of antioxidants, processing aids or stabilizers.

Claim 9. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 1, wherein the material comprising the adhesive layer includes at least a polymer and a hydrocolloid.

Claim 10. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 9, wherein the polymer is a pressure sensitive adhesive.

Claim 11. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 10, wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive comprises at least one rubber.

Claim 12. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 11, wherein the rubber is any one of or a combination of any one of styrene-isoprene-styrene copolymers, styrene-ethylene-styrene copolymers styrene-butylene-styrene copolymers, butyl rubber and polyisobutylene.

31
Claim 13. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 9, further comprising at least one additive.

Claim 14. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 13, wherein the additive is any one or a combination of any of tackifiers, stabilizers, plastifiers, processing aids or therapeutic agents.

Claim 15. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 9, wherein the adhesive layer comprises about 15% to about 40% by weight polymer, about 10% to about 50% by weight hydrocolloid, and about 10 to about 75% of by weight additives.

Claim 16. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 9, wherein the adhesive layer comprises about 58% by weight polyisobutylene, about 12% by weight butyl rubber, about 7% by weight plasticizer and 23% by weight hydrocolloid.

Claim 17. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 1, further comprising a release liner adhered to an adhesive layer lower surface area.

Claim 18. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer, backing film layer, or adhesive and backing film layer are substantially transparent or clear.

Claim 19. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer, backing film layer, or adhesive and backing film layer are substantially flesh colored.

Claim 20. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing of claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer is about 5 to about 50 mils and wherein the backing film layer is about 0.5 to about 10 mils.

Claim 21. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a calendered hydrocolloid dressing comprising the steps of:

- B1
- a. blending a backing film composition;
 - b. extruding the backing film composition;
 - c. calendering the backing film composition between a top roll and a center roll to form a backing film layer;
 - d. blending an adhesive composition; and
 - e. calendering the adhesive composition between the second roll and a third roll to form a hydrocolloid dressing comprising a backing film layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the adhesive composition is applied and calendered directly onto the backing film layer such that formation of an adhesive layer of said adhesive composition and lamination of said adhesive layer to said backing film composition is achieved in a single manufacturing step.

Claim 22. (previously amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of adhering a release liner layer to a lower surface area of the hydrocolloid dressing.

Claim 23. (previously amended) A calendered hydrocolloid dressing prepared by the method of claim 21 or 22.

Claim 24. (previously added) The method of claim 21, wherein said backing film composition is comprised of a thermoplastic elastomer.

Claim 25. (previously added) The method of claim 24, wherein said thermoplastic elastomer is an ethylene based copolymer.

Serial No. 09/925,063

Claim 26. (previously added) The method of claim 25, wherein said ethylene based copolymer is one or a combination of any of an ethylene acrylic acrylate, ethylene butyl acrylate, ethylene ethyl acrylate or ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer.

Claim 27. (previously added) The method of claim 21, wherein the backing film layer is comprised of about 100% by weight copolymer, wherein the copolymer is about 21% by weight comonomer.

Claim 28. (previously added) The method of claim 21, wherein material comprising the backing film layer further includes low density polyethylene homopolymer.

Claim 29. (previously added) The method of claim 21, wherein material comprising the backing film layer further includes additives.

B1 Claim 30. (previously added) The method of claim 29, wherein the additives are selected from the group of antioxidants, stabilizers and processing aids.

Claim 31. (previously added) The method of claim 21, wherein the backing film layer is comprised of about 65% to about 100% by weight ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer, from about 0 to about 35% by weight low density polyethylene, about 0.05 to about 2% by weight of any one of or combinations of any of antioxidants, processing aids or stabilizers.

Claim 32. (previously added) The method of claim 21, wherein material comprising the adhesive layer includes at least a polymer and a hydrocolloid.

Claim 33. (previously added) The method of claim 32, wherein the polymer is a pressure sensitive adhesive.

Claim 34. (previously added) The method of claim 33, wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive comprises at least one rubber.

Claim 35. (previously added) The method of claim 34, wherein the rubber is any one of or a combination of any one of styrene-isoprene-styrene copolymers, styrene-ethylene-styrene copolymers styrene-butylene-styrene copolymers, butyl rubber and polyisobutylene.

Serial No. 09/925,063

Claim 36. (previously added) The method of claim 32, wherein the adhesive layer further comprises at least one additive.

Claim 37. (previously added) The method of claim 36, wherein the additive is any one or a combination of any of tackifiers, stabilizers, plastifiers, processing aids or therapeutic agents.

Claim 38. (previously added) The method of claim 32, wherein the adhesive layer comprises about 15% to about 40% by weight polymer, about 10% to about 50% by weight hydrocolloid, and about 10 to about 75% of by weight additives.

Claim 39. (previously added) The method of claim 32, wherein the adhesive layer comprises about 58% by weight polyisobutylene, about 12% by weight butyl rubber, about 7% by weight plasticizer and 23% by weight hydrocolloid.

Claim 40. (previously added) The method of claim 21, wherein the adhesive layer, backing film layer, or adhesive and backing film layer are substantially transparent or clear.

Claim 41. (previously added) The method of claim 21, wherein the adhesive layer, backing film layer, or adhesive and backing film layer are substantially flesh colored.

Claim 42. (previously added) The method of claim 21, wherein the adhesive layer is about 5 to about 50 mils and wherein the backing film layer is about 0.5 to about 10 mils.

Claim 43. (new) A method of manufacturing a calendered hydrocolloid dressing comprising the steps of:

- a. blending a backing film composition;
- b. extruding the backing film composition;
- c. calendering the backing film composition between a first roller and a second roller to form a backing film layer;
- d. blending an adhesive composition; and
- e. calendering the adhesive composition between the second roller and a third roller to form a hydrocolloid dressing comprising a backing film layer and an adhesive layer, wherein the adhesive composition is introduced and calendered directly onto the backing film layer such that formation of an adhesive layer of said adhesive composition and lamination of said adhesive layer to said backing film composition is achieved in a single manufacturing step.